

REMARKS

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner enter these amendments prior to examining the application on its merits.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for examination. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of the foregoing amendments, and entry of the same into the present application are respectfully requested.

It is not believed that extensions of time are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in accompanying documents. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR §1.136(a), and any fees required therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0622, referencing Attorney Docket No. 0221-0003O.

Respectfully submitted,

SHANKS & HERBERT

By:

Suzannah K. Sundby
Reg. No. 43,172

Date: 17 January 2001

TransPotomac Plaza
1033 N. Fairfax Street
Suite 306
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 683-3600